Analysis of summer programs for children in the Albuquerque metropolitan area

Summer presents both a dilemma and an opportunity for parents. Younger children need supervision during work hours, ideally in a way that ties into a child’s natural enthusiasm and curiosity to provide learning, and/or growth and development. This report contains a variety of information on summer programs available in the Albuquerque Metro.
ABQ Summer Programs

ANALYSIS OF SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN IN THE ALBUQUERQUE METROPOLITAN AREA

INTRODUCTION

The Explora Science Center and Children’s Museum has a mission to create opportunities for inspirational discovery and the joy of lifelong learning through interactive experiences in science, technology, engineering, art, and math. To support that mission and its core values, Explora commissioned this survey of the summer program offerings in the Albuquerque Metropolitan area to better understand the existing programs and providers in the area, and to try to identify any gaps in the types of offerings available, and any underserved areas or communities.

The survey was performed by two Encore Fellows working for Explora. The Encore program seeks to match recent retirees from the private sector with local non-profit organizations to provide services that are outside normal operations, and which are often difficult to resource with existing personnel. The approach to the survey was to do an extensive search on-line and in local publications to identify as many programs as possible, including basic information like age range of participants, cost, location, program topic and program format. That information was then rolled up to create an overall picture of the available opportunities for summer activities for children and youth in Albuquerque.

In addition, interviews were conducted with a cross-section of well-established summer program providers in the area to gather additional details about their approach to things like staffing, special needs, scholarship programs, if offered, advertising, transportation, and registration. Summaries, or case studies, of the organizations consenting to interviews were written and compiled into this final report. The general information in the final report will be shared with all interview participants, and the case studies will be shared on an opt-in basis, meaning they will be included only if approved by a representative of that organization.

PROVIDER INFORMATION

One hundred and eight different summer program providers were identified in the Albuquerque Metropolitan area using available resources. These programs include everything from single day workshops to full summer sessions. The primary resource was the NM Kids May/June 2016 edition, which includes their annual summer camp directory, but word-of-mouth, generalized web searches and SavvySource also yielded results and/or additional detail. (Note: SavvySource included several outdated listings for defunct organizations. There also
may be providers listed individually that also list all or a portion of their offerings in the UNM Continuing Ed catalog.)

Information collected for providers included topics, date ranges, program format, cost, age or grade ranges served, location(s) of the programs, along with any other pertinent information available. In addition to the general survey of the area, we contacted and interviewed representatives of nine different local providers to gather more in depth information.

The embedded file is a spreadsheet that includes a listing of all identified summer program providers in the Albuquerque Metropolitan Area.

PROGRAM CATEGORY AND TOPIC INFORMATION

From our general survey, we found that programs fall into two broad categories. Those that focus on a single, relatively narrow topic (soccer, painting, sewing), and those that offer more variety, either in the form of camps that touch on a range of activities and topics, or by providing multiple camps with a broad range of specific topics. Camps or catalogs of camps that offer variety may still hold to a theme (e.g. STEM or Art), but offer a wide range of experience within the context of the theme.

Among the providers offering a variety of topics and activities, they broke out into the following categories:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STEM</th>
<th>Art</th>
<th>Childcare</th>
<th>Academic</th>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Special Needs</th>
<th>Religious</th>
<th>Tutor</th>
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Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs offer a variety of sub-topics within the broader STEM theme. Art implies programs that touch on many different forms of art, rather than focusing on a specific medium or technique. Childcare providers are mostly pre-schools that offer summer hours for supervised play. Academic refers to programs that provide supplemental opportunities for classroom learning outside the normal school year. Variety describes camps that are a mix of activities like games, arts & crafts, field trips, and so forth. Some providers focus specifically on content for one or more special needs category. There are religious institutions with summer programs that include or are focused on religious learning, often referred to as Vacation Bible School. There are also some providers that have summer hours for individualized tutoring to assist students struggling in a subject or wanting to accelerate their learning in a specific area.
Of the specific, topic focused camps, the break down was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theater</th>
<th>Sports¹</th>
<th>Dance</th>
<th>Animals²</th>
<th>Sewing</th>
<th>Music³</th>
<th>Arts⁴</th>
<th>Tech⁵</th>
<th>Misc⁶</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

¹ **Sports:** Soccer (6), Gymnastics (4), Yoga (1), Baseball (1), Swimming (1), Football (1), Martial Arts (2), Basketball (1), Fencing (1), Golf (2), Climbing (1), General (2)

² **Animals:** Horses (2), Dogs (1), Various (1), Farm/Ranch (1)

³ **Music:** Rock music (2), Drumming (1), Guitar (1), Various (1)

⁴ **Arts:** Film making (1), Drawing/Painting (3), Writing (1), Cooking (1)

⁵ **Tech:** Robots/Rocketry (1), Computer games (1)

⁶ **Misc:** Chess (1), Reading (1), Speech/Language eval/therapy (1)

### PROGRAM PARTICIPANT AGE INFORMATION

The ages of summer program participants range from six weeks at some of the pre-school providers to adult in some of the dance programs. The following table shows the number of programs supporting a given age grouping. If a program includes, for example, ages 8-11, the program is counted in each of the 8-9, 9-10, and 10-11 columns. Elementary school age children have the most options available. There are limited program options before age five and a slow decline through middle school and high school age.

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<th>1-2</th>
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<th>3-4</th>
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</table>
In discussions with both local providers and with children’s museums in other cities, a common theme is that it is harder to attract kids in the middle school and high school age groups to learning-focused camps. The consensus is that kids in this age range have more options for and interest in areas like sports, theater, dance, and music. Some older kids may also have the option of staying home alone as opposed to supervised time in an organized program.

**SPECIAL NEEDS**

Most programs make an effort to accommodate participants with special needs, although most face some limitations in their facility and/or in the number and expertise of the staff. In most cases, a conversation between the family and the provider is required to assess the need level and determine whether the provider is able to make the necessary adjustments to the program to adequately meet the requirements. Providers which are part of a larger institution with regulated requirements for accommodation have access to more than the typical resources to work with special needs children.

There are several providers and/or specialty camps focused on special needs. The Carrie Tingley Children’s Hospital Foundation hosts two week-long summer camps for children and teens with physical disabilities. One is for ages 6-12, and the other is for 13-19 year olds. Pathways Academy specializes in helping children with learning challenges and hosts a multi-week summer program for children with ADHD, emotional challenges, Aspergers, and those on the autism spectrum. The Albuquerque Speech Language Hearing Center offers summer hours for therapy sessions for children pre-K to 12th grade who want to work with a speech language pathologist outside the school year. The University of New Mexico Center for Development and Disability also hosts New Mexico Camp Rising Sun at the Manzano Mountain Retreat southeast of Albuquerque. These are one week, sleep-in camps for children and teens on the autism spectrum ages 8-17. There is one camp for children (June 5-9, 2017) and one for teens (June 26-30, 2017). Staff to participant ratio is determined by the needs of the campers, and 1-to-1 staffing is available for those who need more supervision.
CALENDAR COVERAGE

Using available information for the summer of 2016, we can get a picture of the program calendar coverage by the week of the summer. There are some that offer programs at the end of May, including Memorial Day week, but most programs start a week after the end of the school year and continue through the first half of July. There are also programs operating in late July and early August, though significantly fewer. Many programs are hosted by schools and we’ve found that the drop off is in part due to the need for a cleanup and reset following the summer programs and in anticipation of the start of the school year. The bar chart below shows the number of programs in operation during a given week of summer in 2016. (Note: Data for the week of July 4th may be suspect due to date ranges provided which may not indicate a gap during the holiday week.)

PROGRAM FORMAT

There is considerable variation in the available scheduling formats for summer programs. The majority are one full week in duration, but there are also quite a few two-week programs. Some define a full week as three or four days, but most operate on a Monday through Friday scheme. There are some programs that take place on a single calendar day and others that run the full summer. Some providers offer full or half day
options for the same program. Others allow back-to-back half days, or let the participant build a schedule using 1 hour blocks from a single hour to a full day of varied topics. In most cases, a building block schedule may not include a gap, as no supervision is available for unstructured time.

The table below breaks out the different schedule formats from the available information.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SINGLE DAY</th>
<th>FULL WEEK, ½ DAY AM</th>
<th>FULL WEEK, ½ DAY PM</th>
<th>FULL WEEK, FULL DAY</th>
<th>2 WEEKS, ½ DAY</th>
<th>2 WEEKS, FULL DAY</th>
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* ODDBALL SCHEDULE EXAMPLES: 1 DAY/WEEK FOR MULTIPLE WEEKS; M,W,F MORNINGS; ETC.

There is even greater variation in the definitions of full or half-day. Half-day programs run from 1-4 hours, although a three hour, 9am to noon, or 1-4pm schedule is typical. Full-days may be anywhere from 5-11 hours long with a 9am start time most common, along with an end time between 3-4pm. Mornings may start as early as 7am or as late as 11am. Most afternoons start between noon and 1pm, and most programs of all types end in the 3-4pm range. Many providers offer before and/or aftercare, usually for an additional fee. Obviously, for structured programs that start very early, there’s not likely to be before care. Likewise, for structured programs that run late into the day, aftercare is not typically available.

**COST INFORMATION**

Program cost information is more limited than the other categories as it was not in the scope of this effort to track down cost information for every provider and pricing is often not included in camp listings or advertisements. The available data shows a wide range of costs, depending on a variety of factors, including camp duration, materials, specialized equipment requirements, and whether the program is government subsidized. The APS summer learning program (K3+) for schools in economically disadvantaged areas and the Albuquerque City Community Center Rec programs are free to eligible participants. The Albuquerque City Playground program carries a minimal cost ($35 per week for full days). At the other extreme, some specialty programs may be very expensive. Ideally, the rate per hour of program time would be a better way to compare pricing, but that data is not available except for STEM programs where additional effort was expended.

For half day programs, costs range from $60 up to $275 dollars for a week. This wide range is partly driven by differences in daily durations (1.5-4 hours) and the number of days in a “full week” (3-5 days). The most common cost for a half-day week is in the $125 - $150 range.

For full day programs, costs range from $125 up to $490 for 3 to 5-day week and for 6-8 hour durations. The most common cost for enrichment camps (structured, learning-focused) is $230-$265 for a 6-8 hour, 5-day week.

Two week programs range from $265-$440 for a half-day, and $250-$770 for a full day.

For STEM programs, we made a deeper dive into the cost data, including calculating a cost per hour of program time for most offerings. These programs range from $3 per hour up to $25 per hour. Of 284
sessions surveyed, there were 148 offerings under $10 per hour, 73 that charge $10 per hour, and 53 that cost more than $10 per hour. CNM has a set of ten single day STEM camps that are free to participants.

The chart below shows that the “sweet spot” seems to be in the $8-10 per hour range.

**METRO AREA COVERAGE**

Providers were cataloged by zip code to get an idea of their distribution. As much as possible, the location of the summer program itself was used, but, in some cases where the program location information wasn’t available, the location of the provider was used on the assumption that the program would be hosted in-house. Providers are spread out across the Albuquerque Metropolitan area, although there is somewhat of a concentration around the Downtown, Old Town, and University areas.

Albuquerque Public Schools summer programs include their K3+ program, and their Summer Academy remediation program. The City of Albuquerque programs include both free, lottery-based programs at all local community centers and multi-generational facilities in the city, and low cost, supervised programs at many school playgrounds in economically disadvantaged areas of the city.

The table below and the maps that follow show the number of STEM-focused, and Art-focused providers, along with a total count of providers in each zip code area. There are separate maps for Albuquerque proper and for the Rio Rancho and Corrales areas. Because the APS and City of Albuquerque programs are so large and widely distributed, they were mapped separately from the other providers.
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1 87106 listing includes Zip Code 87131 (University of New Mexico)

2 Total column includes all program providers in the zip code, including the STEM and Art programs. It does not include APS or City of Albuquerque community center or playground programs.
• K3+ is K-entering 3rd grade
• Summer Academy (SA), includes both K3+ and completed grades 3-5
CONCLUSION

Parents in the Albuquerque Metropolitan area have a great many options for summer programs for their children. They range from very specific, specialty camps focused on a narrow skillset or activity all the way to barely supervised recreation. The most prevalent types of camps are sports, academic, STEM, and those camps offering a wide variety of activities. Children in elementary school have the most options available to them with the youngest (pre-Kindergarten) and oldest (high school) groups having the fewest choices. Mid-June through mid-July are replete with summer activities with very early summer and, especially, late July/early-August having significantly fewer active programs.

The formats of the camps vary widely, too, with options for single day or single week camps up to programs that encompass the whole summer. Longer programs run more risk of family schedule conflicts, but shorter programs may make it difficult for parents to schedule adequate coverage for work hours across the full summer.

Some specialty camps with unique expertise and/or equipment requirements may be quite expensive, but most of the summer programs fall into a relatively narrow, established “price point” range for the Albuquerque area. The city, the public schools, and a few of the private sector providers offer low cost options, generally in more economic depressed portions of the metro.

A few specialized providers offer a limited number of program options for children with special needs. Most programs will do best-effort accommodation within their existing program. The limitations of the staffs and
facilities involved vary greatly, and those affiliated with larger institutions that have a mandate and/or funding to serve the special needs community having a better chance of supporting the requirements.

Programs are spread throughout the metropolitan area with somewhat of a concentration in the downtown, Old Town, and university areas. Geographically, the areas that show the most opportunity are in the northern section of the west side of the metro, including the area around Paradise Hills and Eagle Ranch, extending north into Rio Rancho, and the south valley, including the 87105 and 87121 zip codes. For any provider seeking to expand within the metropolitan area, host sites in those areas could be good options. Potential partners in Rio Rancho are the UNM West and CNM Rio Rancho campuses, Rio Rancho public schools, Intel, and the city of Rio Rancho. In the south valley, the National Hispanic Cultural Center, the UNM and New Mexico State Valencia campuses in Los Lunas, the CNM South Valley campus, and various public schools and community centers could be host partners.

CASE STUDIES

1. Albuquerque Bio Park
2. Albuquerque Academy
3. Albuquerque Public Schools (APS)
4. Harwood Art Center
5. Explora Science Center and Children’s Museum
6. Manzano Day School
7. New Mexico Museum of Natural Science and History
8. RoboRave at the International Balloon Museum
9. University of New Mexico (UNM) Children’s Campus
10. UNM Continuing Education

Note: We would like to offer a huge thank you to the organizations and their representatives who participated in this survey. We attempted to arrange interviews with several other providers with either no response, or with a response that they could not spare the time for the interview process, so we appreciate those who did make the time that much more.

ALBUQUERQUE BIO PARK

The Albuquerque Bio Park complex includes the Albuquerque Zoo, the Aquarium, Tingley Beach, and the Botanic Garden, which includes the Heritage Farm, offering a variety of settings for their summer programs for children. Because each location provides ample opportunity for experiential learning, their camps are now confined to a single venue for the duration. Their philosophy is that there should be minimal partitioning between the arts and sciences, so all programs incorporate art, along with science-focused learning.

Calendar: For 2016, camps were offered from June 6th through July 29th during the summer. They do offer programs during Spring and Winter breaks, although those are packaged as single day camps, rather than the formats offered in Summer described below.

Format: Most of the Bio Park summer camps are one full week in duration, although their pre-K offerings use a very different format described below. No before or after care is available, but that is a common request. They are investigating offering before and after care for an additional, as-yet-to-be-determined cost.
For Kindergarten through 1st grade, the camps are half-day mornings from 8:30am to noon, Monday through Friday. Grades 2-3 have morning and afternoon half-day sessions available Monday through Friday from 8:30am to noon or from 12:30pm to 4:00pm. Participants may sign up for either one or both sessions, and effort is made to create sufficient variety between the morning and afternoon sessions to keep it engaging. Grades 4-6 and 7-9 are both offered as full day camps from 8:30am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday. The BioPark’s pre-K program uses a very different format where a parent must accompany their child (or children). The sessions are scheduled 1 day each week over 12 weeks from 9:30am to 11:00am.

**Program composition:** For children in Kindergarten through 3rd grade, sessions are limited to 10 participants. For grades 4-9, they are capped at 12. Each camp has 2-4 adults, consisting of a teacher, 1-2 teenaged, trained volunteers, and, in some cases, a docent. They find that they need to keep group sizes small and adult to child ratios low, since their camps take place in large areas that are concurrently open to the public, and which may be crowded.

The teachers are hired seasonally for the summer program and are most often teachers (some retired) from the local community in need of a summer job and/or seeking a small group, enriched teaching experience. Jobs are posted in January, hires are completed in February and March, and orientation occurs the second weekend in May. They provide 40 hours over two weeks for teachers to work with BioPark staff to learn the facility and to use an in-house developed framework from past camps to plug-in customized content within a preset schedule. Around 50% of the teachers return from year to year.

**Cost:** Full week, full day camps are $230. Full week, half-days are $125 with no discount offered for signing up for both the morning and afternoon sessions. The pre-K parent and child program runs $130 for the first child, and $65 for additional children from the same family. They do offer a 10% discount to members of the New Mexico Bio Park Society. They do not offer scholarships or reduced fee participation to the general public, but they do have a 20-year “Join-a-School” partnership with Dolores Gonzalez and Lew Wallace Title I elementary schools to offer 5 full scholarships for each. Part of the income from the Annual Zoo Boo event goes to cover the costs, and they do occasionally receive donations designated for scholarship funds. They have also used those funds to cover the costs for a small number of mid-school students from Reginald Chavez Middle School. They do find that full scholarship participants have a high no-show rate, and the perception is that it is not a priority for the parents.

**Participants:** Attendance is good, and most camps are full throughout the Summer. What variability they see fluctuates. It is often harder to attract children in the older age groupings, sometimes early Summer is slow, although that’s unpredictable year to year. The participants come from all over the metro area, and sometimes outside the metro, including out-of-state. Sometimes, out of area participants are in town staying with relatives, others are in town on a family vacation and the camp provides activities for the children and free time for the adults. They do have trouble “selling” the Botanic Garden despite excellent content. It’s just less appealing that the zoo and aquarium.

**Registration/Advertising Timing:** Registration opens the first week of March. They begin distributing flyers, and doing some advertising in January and February. Advertising targets include NM-Kids, the Albuquerque Journal, social media, NPR, and free local publications like the Alibi. Flyers are distributed to the libraries, city hall, and around their own facilities.

**Special Needs:** They make an effort to accommodate special needs in their camps, although they are often not notified of those needs ahead of time and have to try to make the necessary accommodations on the fly. Many of the teachers have had training and/or experience with special needs, and they tend to handle it
fluidly, while others may struggle. Sometimes, an assistant accompanies the child, which makes it much easier for them to accommodate.

**Transportation:** They do not have transportation support for their camps, although their train is sometimes used as an activity. Since they do not hold camps at multiple facilities, and they do not do field trips, they have no need for buses or vans. They do not have any special arrangement with public transit for their camps, and it is the responsibility of the parents to drop off and pick up their children.

**General notes:** In addition to hosting their own camps, the BioPark is a common destination for field trips from other summer camps and programs. If requested, they try to assign a docent to accompany the field trip visitors to show them around. They would benefit from being able to hire a full-time camp coordinator for both coordination and planning of their own programs, and for coordination of group visits from other organizations. Program fees have been very stable, going up by perhaps $10 in the last ten years.

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**ALBUQUERQUE ACADEMY**

**Albuquerque Academy** is a nationally recognized private school, providing coeducational, college preparatory schooling from middle school through high school, grades 6 through 12.

**Calendar:** In 2016, the Academy had two different programs during the summer. The first was a 6-week program from June 6th through July 15th. Following the end of the main program, they had a collection of 2-week Think It! camps from July 18th to July 29th. While some parents have asked for the main program to be extended, the Academy finds that time to restore and prepare the facility for the start of the school year is essential.

**Format:** The main, 6-week program is configured as a catalog of 50-minute class periods with a 10-minute passing period between, and a 35-minute lunch period around mida-day. The first period offered begins at 8:10am, and the final period of the day ends at 3:30pm. Participants may sign up for a single class all the way up to putting together a full day of courses, as long as they do not include any gaps in the schedule while on campus. There are also recreational camps offered during this same period, which may be half-day (beginning at noon) or full-day (8:30am - 3:30pm). Before and after care is available for a minimal additional cost from 7:30am – 8:10am and/or from 3:30pm – 5:45pm. There are also some organized activities during the aftercare hours for an additional fee (chess camp, for example).

The Think It! camps range from full day (8:00am – 3:30pm) to 2-3.5 hours in duration, depending on the content.

**Program composition:** For the 6-week class program, topics include Architecture, English and Language Arts, Innovation and Creativity, Growth and Development, Language and Cultural Studies, Math, Science, Social Science, Technology, Performing Arts (Dance, Drama, Music), Visual Arts (Applied Arts, 2D & 3D), and sports and fitness topics ranging from swimming and diving to juggling, yoga and martial arts. Depending on the topic, some classes may cover more than one class period to dive more deeply into the subject matter. Classes are for pre-grade 1 through pre-grade 12. Classes are generally capped at 12-13 participants for pre-grades 1-2 with a main teacher and one student teacher’s assistant in each session. The older grades are
capped at 15-18 participants and there is just a single teacher in most cases. Gender skewing is not pronounced in their programs, possibly because their format allows selection of topics of interest to the individual.

Think It! camps cover a variety of topics from sports specific training (baseball, tennis) to variety camps or subject specific camps (K’NEX Simple Machines or Space & Rocketry). Think It! camps are for grades 1-5. They scale up the number of available teen volunteers to help co-facilitate and manage the larger groups.

The Academy seasonally hires around 170 teachers to facilitate their summer programs, including around 35 from their own full-time teaching staff. The external hires are a mix of experienced teachers from APS, Rio Rancho, and even from out of state. They also hire around 250 student teacher’s assistants, some from the Academy student body, but not all.

Teachers develop their own content within assigned topics. For some topic areas, there may be a pre-existing framework for them to build on. New topics are added when gaps are identified, sometimes via parent feedback or based on advice from the teachers.

Cost: Most of the 50-minute classes were $230, although some are higher due to materials cost ($275 was the highest I saw). Some classes that run for multiple periods during the day may have higher tuition fees. For example, the Summer Stock Theater class, which runs for three hours, was $705. Before care was $105 (40 minutes) and aftercare was $410 (2 ¼ hours) for the duration. Organized, content rich activities during the aftercare period are $205-$240.

Think It! camps range from $125 for some 2-hour sessions up to $395 for full day. Aftercare activities are $110-$120.

They offer up to 100 academic scholarships through the Multicultural Summer Honors Scholarship Program (open to all rising 4th and 5th graders students in the community). There is an application process to get into the program and it provides a half-day, tuition-free scholarship that includes an English Language Arts class, a skills-appropriate Math class, and a Culture Through the Arts class with visual and fine arts. The Schmider Opportunity Fund (supplemented by Think Academy, where necessary) provides financial assistance to qualified Summer Honors students. Schmider Scholars receive tuition for the remainder of the school day (including extended care). There is no other scholarship program, but they do point out those programs that are likely to meet Flexible Spending Account (FSA) guidelines.

Participants: Summer programs are well attended with most sessions full or nearly full. There are a few unique offerings (like juggling, for example) that help to differentiate them from other providers in the area, but which may not be as well attended. They feel it’s worth continuing to offer those types of subjects since they provide depth and breadth in course offerings. There is some variability year-to-year, in some cases driven by the economy. When the economy is strong, some families do more and/or more extensive travel, which may make it harder to place their kids in a 6-week program.

The Northeast Heights is a sweet spot for them, but participants come from all over the metro area, as well as from outside of Albuquerque and from out-of-state.

Registration/Advertising Timing: The first opportunity to register is the first Saturday in March (March 5, 2016). Registration resumed March 21st in 2016, and was available on a walk-in basis Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 5:30pm until May 23rd. Currently, in person registration is required, but on-line options are being explored.
Special Needs: In accordance with its non-discrimination statement, the Academy makes every effort to accommodate special needs, but it comes down to a discussion between the parents and the staff to determine the level of need, and whether that need can be met with the available facility and personnel.

Transportation: All programs take place on the Academy grounds, and parents are responsible for getting their children to and from the facility. Safety during the potentially chaotic drop off and pick up windows is a major focus. Extra personnel are stationed in the loading/unloading zones to help ensure adequate tracking and control of the environment. There are field trips for some classes, and they organize transportation for those, as needed.

General notes: The academy has an enrollment of around 1150 during the standard school year. Their summer programs attract around 1900 participants. Some of the same kids that are in the 6-week program remain for the ThinkIt! summer camps in mid to late July.

ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS (APS)

The Albuquerque Public Schools elementary summer programs include the K3+ program, and the Summer Academy remediation program for outgoing 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. The K3+ program has been in operation for ten years, beginning with 7 schools and growing to its current sixty school sites.

Calendar: The programs start soon after the end of the standard school year, although the date ranges vary depending on the school calendar of the host school. For 2017, for schools on the traditional school year, the summer programs will run from June 14th to July 20th. For alternate calendar schools, it will run from June 7th to July 13th.

Format: K3+ is a five-week jumpstart program for children entering Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd or 3rd grade at struggling and/or disadvantaged schools. For 2016, 60 schools participated in K3+, although for cost management, many sites were consolidated such that one school hosted the program for both its own students and those of a nearby school. At all schools, the daily schedule follows the host school's standard school year schedule for first and last bell, lunch periods, etc.

At 24 of the K3+ schools, a Summer Academy provides remediation for children leaving 3rd, 4th and 5th grades at the end of the school year.

Program composition: The 5 week K3+ program is designed to be an augmented school year for students who may be struggling to meet or maintain academic skill levels. Students are placed in classrooms of 18-23 students who will continue as a class, in most cases with the same teacher, during the coming school year. This gives teachers a jump start on assessing and building a rapport with their students, and provides extra time for students who are struggling in reading, writing, science and general knowledge in an effort to raise students to or keep them at grade appropriate skill levels.

K3+ utilizes a curriculum purchased from Amplify called Seeds of Science/Roots of Reading. The curricula are grade specific and focus on topics like Digestion and Body Systems, Designing Mixtures, Gravity and Magnetism and so on. They provide reading program resource booklets for the students, and guide materials for the teacher. Each of the five weeks focuses on a topic within the overall program theme, and each Friday, a weekly topic culminates with a hands-on experiment.

APS strives to keep the same services in effect during the summer session as during the school year, including PE, on site counselors, art or music, library access, tech lab access, cafeteria services, and bus transport. Free
or reduced breakfast and lunch is available to eligible students. Those schools which are bilingual or have an English as a Second Language (ESL) program during the school year, try to maintain those programs during the summer.

Before and aftercare availability depends on if the school has a community provider on site or not. The school sites will make it available to support families in need of day care during the program period.

**Cost:** The APS elementary summer programs are free to all eligible participants.

Funding is provided by grants that each eligible school must apply for every year. If they don’t apply and/or don’t get the funds, they are not included in the program. The funding is contingent on the child being in attendance at least 10 of the 25 days of the program, and being enrolled on the 15th day. If a student does not meet those requirements, APS does not get the funding for that individual student.

**Participants:** All host schools for both programs are either from schools with 80+% of students qualifying for the Free or Reduced Lunch Program (FRLP), or are schools that received a D or F grade from the New Mexico Public Education Department for the prior school year. All students from those schools are eligible for the programs offered at their site. APS estimates that 42,500 children qualify for the program, although 6,000 participated in 2016.

There is a single teacher for each class except for Kindergarten, which also has an Educational Assistant (EA). All teachers and EAs are currently highly qualified APS employees, as are librarians, counselors, PE coaches, and other adults supporting the summer programs.

**Registration/Advertising Timing:** Interested parents are asked to work with their child’s teacher to register. Registration closed on May 25th in 2016.

**Special Needs:** APS strives to have special education teachers on hand and supply the normal level of accommodation for special needs kids. Hodgin Elementary, one of the participating schools, offers access to deaf/hearing impaired students. If they can’t get special education teachers for a school, they may not be able to accommodate all that is written in the student’s IEP. Students with severe needs are offered an Extended School Year (ESY) program during the summer which is specifically designed to accommodate their levels of need.

**Transportation:** Bus service for all K3+ schools is available during the program, just as during the school year. For consolidated schools, the buses run their usual routes, but delivers students to and picks up from the host school.

**General notes:** APS has dropped its remediation programs for middle school since middle school imbed remediation sessions into their regular school year schedule. High school offers credit recovery classes each summer.

Starting with Governor Richardson, the state’s focus has on early education, because it is easier to keep them at grade than to bring them up to grade later. There’s also a huge correlation between early reading and dropout rates. Reading twenty minutes/day correlates to the 90th percentile on standardized tests, five minutes/day correlates to 50th percentile, and one minute/day correlates to 10th percentile. Data shows a much higher dropout rate if early reading skills are significantly behind grade.

APS works with Explora and other museums and local venues via the Launch to Learn Passport program. The K3+ program was not able to have organized field trips this past year due to funding cuts, and time and resource constraints. They would love to have Explora or other organizations come in and do assemblies,
especially ones that tie in with their grade level curriculum. It would be like an in-house field trip. The city gives out buddy bus passes for the Launch to Learn program, so that students can take advantage of these venues with their families when they are not in school. Students who get a majority of their passports stamped and return at the end of the summer program at participating venues, can win prizes prior to the first of the fall semester.

EXPLORA SCIENCE CENTER AND CHILDREN’S MUSEUM
The mission of Explora Science Center and Children’s Museum is creating opportunities for inspirational discovery and the joy of lifelong learning through interactive experiences in science, technology, engineering, art, and math.

Calendar: In 2016, Explora offered 72 summer camps between June 6th and August 5th, with no sessions offered the week of Independence Day. Camps are also offered during the winter and spring, aligned with the local public school calendar. Spring break and winter camps are packaged as single days.

Format: Most summer camps are scheduled for a full-week with half day morning or afternoon sessions. Morning sessions run 9am to noon, and afternoon sessions are 1pm to 4pm. Pre-K sessions are held only during the mornings, but, for older age groups, parents are welcome to schedule a morning and afternoon session to make it a full day experience. While some topics are offered for both the morning and afternoon sessions, there is always a parallel offering for the same age group to keep it engaging for full day campers. A few camps are full day from 9am to 4pm, mostly for middle school or high school age groups. Before (8-9am) and aftercare (4-5:30pm) is available for an additional fee.

Program composition: For the summer of 2016, camps were split into age groups of pre-K, K-1st, 2nd-3rd, 4th-6th, 6th-8th, and 10th-12th grades. Omission of 9th grade from the listing was inadvertent and 9th graders were offered flexibility in joining either the middle school or high school age groups. Pre-K is limited to nine participants, K-1st grade is limited to fourteen, and all other age groups are capped at fifteen.

All program curricula are developed in house by Explora staff and are created with the children’s developmental levels in mind. Each camp has a lead facilitator and an assistant. The lead facilitators are either permanent Explora staff or seasonal hires with educational and/or science background, and most return year to year. The assistants come from the Youth Intern Program (YIP), and are high school students completing a portion of the requirements of their two-and-a-half-year internship program. Explora also has a Youth Apprentice Program (YAP) which is a shorter, four-week learning program for twelve to fifteen-year-olds. Sometimes, the apprentices will act as learning buddies in a camp as an educational experience for the apprentice and to provide additional support for the camp.

Cost: Full week, half day camps cost $130 for Explora members or $150 for non-members. Full days run $260 for members, and $300 for non-members. Before and aftercare are $5 per child per day for morning or afternoon, or $10 for both. Parents are asked to provide snacks for morning or afternoon breaks, and a cold sack lunch for full day attendees. Explora provides beverages for breaks and lunch. For full day participants, the lunch hour includes the supervised meal, and access to the museum exhibit floor.

Explora does offer scholarships for reduced cost tuition. Scholarships are handled ad hoc by request, and no proof of need is currently required. A pay-what-you-can system is employed and, so far, has worked well to ensure that parents are paying some portion of the tuition to establish a commitment to the program. Funding
for scholarships comes from private donors, grants, and sponsorships, but Explora has also written into its budget enough funding to take the approach that no one is turned away because of financial need.

Participants: Camp attendance is very good with an overall fill rate of around 90%. The camps for pre-K through 3rd grade are generally completely full with percentage fill rates declining as the ages of the campers increases. Attendance is a little stronger during the second half of the summer, but there is significant variability year to year. Gender data was only available for the summer of 2016, but that limited sample shows a skewing toward higher male participation rates starting with the 4th-6th grade group. Explora is considering options for targeting female participants for the older age groups. Summer program participants come from all over the Albuquerque metro area with no obvious concentrations by zip code.

Registration/Advertising Timing: Registration is mostly on-line, but may be completed by phone or in person using paper forms. If Explora cancels a session due to low registration, full refunds are given. Participant cancelations are refunded less a 15% administrative fee at least five days prior to the camp. Fewer than five days prior, no refund is given. Explora strives to post summer program information in January or early February and registration is opened at the same time.

For advertising, Explora sends brochures to all members and past campers, and are also posted and made available on site at the museum. Ads are also posted to the NM-Kids local, bi-monthly publication, and summer programs are mentioned when Explora holds its monthly “Cool Science” demonstration on the local CBS affiliate KRQE. Explora also places its information in a broad variety of free calendar listings through local publications on-line and in newsstands. In addition, marketing outreach volunteers pass out brochures at many community events.

Special Needs: Children with special needs are accommodated as much as possible within the Explora programs. Generally, a conversation between the coordinator and the parents is required to assess the level of need, and ensure that those needs can be met. At times, a parent or caretaker may accompany a child with special requirements to provide the additional attention and focus required for that individual.

Explora recently received a grant to develop programs specifically for children on the autism spectrum, and they have already begun working with the New Mexico Autism Society. They will be working to develop at least one summer camp specifically for autistic children. The museum has also already begun to offer low sensory hours for individuals and families who prefer a low sensory-stimulating visit. Those hours include a low sensory entrance/exit with a welcome room to provide a transition space, quiet areas for breaks, sensory maps of the facility, and special support resources like fidgets, headphones, visual timers and schedules, and social stories.

Transportation: Explora camps may include time outdoors on the grounds, but no field trips. Parents are responsible for drop off, and pick up.

General notes: Explora has considered more full-day offerings, but feedback from parents indicates strong support for the half-day model with the option of signing up for both halves of the day. Explora is currently at capacity for their summer programs at its home facility, but they are still interested in reaching a larger portion of the community. Part of the motivation for this survey of summer programs in the Albuquerque metropolitan area is to identify underserved communities and/or areas in the metro, and to consider ways to better reach those demographics. Explora is interested in collaborative opportunities to extend its ability to realize its mission of engaging with and educating the children of New Mexico.
The Harwood Art Center is an outreach of the Escuela del Sol Montessori, working at a grassroots level to build a sustainable and more vibrant local, state and regional community using the arts as a catalyst. They provide art education for all ages; community outreach projects and events; teaching and apprenticeship opportunities; and studios, exhibitions and professional development programs for both emerging and established artists.

**Calendar:** For 2016, Harwood offered summer camps from June 6th through July 29th, broken into 4 2-week sessions. There were fifteen camps in total when the sessions are broken out into age/grade groupings.

**Format:** The center offers both full and half day options during their two-week sessions. Half days may be either morning (9am to 12:10pm) or afternoon (12:45 to 4pm), and full days run from 9am to 4pm. Mornings and afternoons are broken into different sections which may include a variety of different content focus areas and instructors. For the youngest age groupings, there are four sections each in the morning and afternoon (total of six classes per day). For older students, morning and afternoon are broken into two separate blocks (total of four classes per day).

No before or aftercare is offered with drop off beginning at 8:30am and pickup extending to 4:30pm.

**Program composition:** The Harwood programs include a wide variety of media and techniques, including weaving, ceramics, sculpture, tie-dye, papermaking, watercolor, collage, photography, painting, puppet making, mixed media and more. They also incorporate music, including songwriting, along with theater via both performance and creative writing. There are also movement classes incorporating dance and creative movement exercises.

Children in grades 1-9 are included and the grade groupings are aligned with the Montessori approach depending on the topic of focus. The grade groupings include G1-2, G1-3, G2-3, G3-4, G3-5, and G6-9 – basically, they are mixed age groups with a 2-3 year spread, depending on the group. Classes are capped at 16 participants with an adult facilitator called a guide, a teaching artist, and 1-3 volunteers. The teaching artists and guides are paid seasonal hires. The teaching artist owns and focuses on content, while the guide maintains order, and keeps the students on task. Many of the teaching artists return for multiple years, although Harwood does actively recruit to fill vacancies and/or to offer a new subject of interest. The artists own development of the course content within a topic area using a provided, basic framework. The guides are often university art or education students seeking summer jobs and work experience in their field. Volunteers are mostly former students who have aged out of the program, but still enjoy the arts and working with children.

In addition to their regular camp offerings, there was a late afternoon program running from 4:15pm to 5:45pm called Scratch Club for up to 6 participants. The class ran for the same two-weeks of each of the summer sessions, and focused on computer programming using the Scratch computer programming language.

**Cost:** For 2016, each two-week session cost $465 for full days or $420 with a Harwood family membership. Half-day sessions were $265 or $240 for members. There was a special, 10% reduced rate for the session that included the 4th of July, as camps were not in operation on the holiday. Scratch club in the late afternoons cost $135 with a 10% discount available to members.

A limited number of scholarships are available, funded by donations from local businesses and/or private donors. To receive financial support, parents are required to register their child, pay a $100 registration fee (refundable if support is unavailable for some reason), and submit a one-page request explaining why and how much financial assistance is required.
Participants: Overall attendance is very good, with some variability with the calendar. Earlier summer offerings tend to have lower attendance than those later in the summer. They very rarely find it necessary to cancel a class due to low registration rates, and those students are absorbed into other sessions. The need for a break to clean up and prepare for the coming Escuela del Sol school year precludes that option.

Attendance is consistent and solid by age range and gender. They do see many returnees from year to year, and some children progress through their programs like a school cohort. If a large cohort ages out of the program together, that can create some variability in attendance in the oldest age group. Camp participants come from all over the metro area and beyond with no obvious concentration in any location.

Registration/Advertising Timing: Registration and payment are available on-line. There is a $100 non-refundable deposit required with each registration, and full payment must be received by two weeks prior to the start of the session.

Harwood advertises in NM-Kids bi-monthly magazine. They have tried the Alibi, the Journal, and other local publications, but NM-Kids seems to be by far the most effective. They have attended summer camp fairs at local businesses or schools by request, but this is sporadic. Feedback from parents indicates that word-of-mouth is the most common way for parents to hear about their programs.

Special Needs: They can accommodate special needs on a limited basis. A conversation between the parents and the coordinator is required to assess the need level and to determine whether they can support it. They have worked with students with ADHD and/or a diagnosis on the autism spectrum with variable success.

Transportation: Harwood does not coordinate any transportation for their summer programs. It is the responsibility of the parents to drop off and pick up their children during the scheduled times. They do occasionally have field trips, but only to locations within walking distance of the facility.

General notes: Harwood has considered experimenting with one-week session offerings, but very few parents have inquired or suggested that format, so it has not been pursued.

MANZANO DAY SCHOOL

Manzano Day School is an independent, nonprofit elementary school for children in Pre-Kindergarten through fifth grade. The school is dedicated to innovative child-centered education, excellence in teaching, and Joy in Learning® to prepare children for a life of discovery and community involvement in our diverse world.

Calendar: Most of the summer classes are five days a week for a 6-week session, although, for the three- and-a-half to five-year-olds, the classes meet Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday only. For 2016, the program ran from June 6th to July 15th. Classes are offered for each grade from Pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade (ages 3.5 to 11). The school also provided extended day childcare during the four days of the week of Memorial Day (May 31st to June 3rd), the three weeks immediately following their summer classes (July 18th to August 5th), and for 1 week during the second week of August (August 8th to 12th).

Format: Classes run from 9am to 3pm daily, and students are aligned with the grade they will begin in the fall. Before and aftercare is available from 8-9am and/or 3-5pm daily for an additional fee.
Program composition: The program places an emphasis on academics, especially math and reading, along with hands-on/experiential learning, and field trips. Movement and dance, recess periods, and afternoon quiet time are also incorporated as important elements of the summer program.

Classes are limited based on the age group with a camp of 15-16 for the youngest, and up to 20 for the older grades. Each classroom has two adults, a teacher and an Educational Assistant. About 25% of the teachers are in house staff who have first opportunity to fill the summer positions. The remainder are seasonal hires made up of local, experienced teachers, graduate students in education, and undergraduate college students. All teachers and EAs must be able to provide basic first aid, and appropriate responses to other medical situations, including support for field trips.

Teachers are provided a basic framework, but develop the content within that framework themselves. The school strives for an international focus, so each week of the summer program focuses on a different country of the world with supporting content built around that context.

Cost: The 6-week summer program cost $960 for the 5-day per week format. The 3-day per week session for 3.5 to 5-year-olds was $750. They do not offer scholarships or reduced tuition.

Participants: Most summer program attendees are current or incoming enrollees at the school, along with a small contingent from outside the school community. Their students come from all over the Albuquerque Metro area, including the East Mountains, and the West side.

Classes are generally full or nearly full each year. They offered a program for grades four and five for the first time in 2016, and classes were full for those grades, as well.

Registration/Advertising Timing: Planning for the coming summer begins in October so that high level information can be available at the November open house. Advertising begins in January via NM-Kids and within the school community.

Special Needs: The school grounds are not ADA compliant, however they can accommodate special needs up to a point. It comes down to a discussion between the family and the coordinator to assess the level of need and determine whether the school can support it. Having two teachers in each class can help in accommodating children with special needs, since extra attention may be required.

Transportation: There is no coordinated transportation support to/from the summer program, and it is the responsibility of the parents to deliver and pick up their children each day. They do have their own buses, which are often used for field trips.

Other Summer Programs: The extended day childcare program is an additional summer program that is offered outside of the Summer Discovery program schedule. The extended day childcare programs are available from 7:30am to 5:30pm daily during Memorial Day week and the summer block. The second week of August, the hours are 7:30am to 8am, and 11am to 5:30pm. The extended day childcare sessions were $32.50 for a half-day (up to 5 hours), $65 for full-day, $260 for a four-day week, or $325 for a 5-day week.
The cost for the full three-week block was $950. For the second week of August early/late care, the fees were $6.50/hour, $45.50/day, or $227.50 for the week. They do not offer scholarships or reduced tuition.

**General notes:** Manzano Day School also has a residential camp near Fenton Lake for current enrollees and recent graduates in 6th and 7th grades. Many of their summer program teachers enjoy the freedom and flexibility of the summer program, since they have more input into and control of the curriculum.

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**NEW MEXICO MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE AND HISTORY**

The [New Mexico Museum of Natural Science and History](http://www.nmnh.org) preserves and interprets the distinctive natural and scientific heritage of our state through our extraordinary collections, research, exhibits and programs designed to ignite a passion for lifelong learning.

**Calendar:** For the summer of 2016, the museum offered camps from June 13th to August 5th. There was no camp the week of the 4th of July. Camps are also offered during the winter break and are being considered for spring break 2017.

**Format:** Summer camps are full week, Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 3:30pm. Aftercare is available from 3:30pm to 5pm for an additional fee. Camps are broken into different age ranges, depending on the topic. Twelve different camps were offered during the summer of 2016 with age groupings of grades K-2, 3-5, 4-6, 4-8, and 7-8.

**Program composition:** The number of participants in the camps ranges from 12 -18, dependent in part on whether a field trip will require the use of a van for transportation. If a topic includes no field trips or only walking field trips, the participant limit is set to optimal levels for a given age group and subject to maintain the quality of the experience. A minimum of six participants is required or the camp will be canceled. There are two adults in each camp. Most often one is a member of the museum staff, and the other is a seasonal hire. The seasonal hires are often classroom teachers, contract informal educators, or university students from education or museum studies departments seeking supplemental opportunities for hands-on education experience. Some work at the museum as part of a work-study program through their school.

Topics for the summer programs derive logically from both the nature of the museum and the areas of expertise of their staff. Camp curricula are developed in house by the staff content experts or contract educators. The staff also provide training to the co-facilitators as time and circumstances permit. The co-facilitators initially act as assistants for the staff facilitator as they gain experience in the program.

**Cost:** Camp tuition is $290 per week with a 10% discount offered to members. No before care is offered, and aftercare is $75 for the week or $15 per day.

Scholarships are offered on a limited basis. Proof of eligibility for the Free or Reduced Lunch Program (FRLP) is required to receive tuition assistance. All participants are required some portion of the cost, and most scholarships are at the 50% level.

**Participants:** Attendance is consistently good through the 4th grade, but was off peak this year for the older grades. The museum is considering limiting camps to Kindergarten through 4th or 5th grade, and to no more than two camps per week in the future based on attendance trends, and budgetary and staffing constraints. The museum summer programs draw participants from all over the Albuquerque Metro area, as well as from the rest of the state and beyond. Some campers stay with relatives in the city to participate in the program.
Registration/Advertising Timing: The museum strives to have their summer programs defined and on their website by early February. Parents begin inquiring by mid-February, so they’ve pulled in their planning process as a result.

Special Needs: The museum strives to accommodate special needs children in their camps, and have a good track record. A conversation between the camp coordinator and the family is required to assess the child’s need level and to determine whether the museum can meet that need. Having two instructors in each camp gives them some flexibility to focus some additional attention and support on a camper with individual needs.

Transportation: The museum has a limited number of vans available for field trips. They used to go to sites as far as three hours away, but have kept it more local in recent years. Their current furthest destination is the Sandia Mountain Natural History Center on the East side of the Sandia Mountains.

General notes: The museum is operated as part of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs, and receives a large portion of its funding from the state. The state has been struggling recently with reduced revenues driving commensurate reductions in the state budget, and the museum has been affected by those reductions. This has affected the size of their staff, forcing broader ranges of responsibility onto fewer shoulders.

ROBORAVE INTERNATIONAL ROBOTICS EDUCATION AND COMPETITION PROGRAM’S ROBOTICS & ROCKETRY CAMPS AT THE INTERNATIONAL BALLOON MUSEUM

RoboRAVE International is New Mexico’s largest 3rd grade through adult robotics competition. RoboRAVE International, in alignment with Inquiry Facilitators, Inc (IF), also offers summer programs in Robotics and Rocketry in the Albuquerque Metro area, and other locations in the state.

Calendar: IF Inc.’s RoboRAVE program offers a limited number of summer camps in Rocketry and Robotics at host locations in the region. In 2016, they offered two camps at the Anderson-Abruzzo International Balloon Museum during the weeks of June 6th and July 18th. They also offered two camps at Rio Rancho High School the weeks of June 13th and July 25th, and in Tucumcari, NM the week of August 1st.

Format: Camps run for a full week, Monday through Friday. They are half-day in duration, focused on either Robots or Rocketry. Morning sessions run from 8am – noon, and afternoon sessions run from 12:30pm – 4pm. Students may sign up for both the morning and afternoon sessions to effectively make it a full day camp. Camps are suitable for children that have completed 3rd grade or higher, and all ages are included together in the program. No before or aftercare is available.

Program composition: Camp size is capped at 20 students per session. All camps are facilitated by two former teachers, and the same facilitators run both the morning and afternoon sessions. Their programs are academic in nature, but focus on hands-on learning in robotics or rocketry. All program materials have been developed by IF in accordance with RoboRAVE guidelines for the robotics program. They have a set curriculum for each topic area, but will make some modifications based on special requests from a club or school to focus on a sub-topic of rocketry or robotics. Camp host sites provide only the location. All content, materials, and facilitation are provided by RoboRAVE through IF, Inc, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit based in Bernalillo.
**Cost:** Each half-day session costs $150 or $275 for full-day. Discounts are available for siblings or friends signing up together. No scholarships are currently offered.

**Participants:** Campers mostly come from the local community or surrounding region, but they have had international students travel to participate. China is commonly the source of one or two campers each summer who come for the content, as well as the immersive opportunity to practice English language skills in a STEM context.

They rarely have issues with low attendance at their camps, although family travel can cause Friday attendance to be low relative to the rest of the week. They see limited participation from the early high school age group. Many high school age children have the opportunity to participate in RoboRAVE via school or club programs.

**Registration/Advertising Timing:** On-line registration and payment are available.

**Special Needs:** They are not setup to accommodate children with learning or social issues. They can accommodate some children with physical disabilities. Even though their facilitators have some training in special needs, the limited staff, and the way the program is configured makes it unrealistic to try to support more severe special needs.

**Transportation:** Parents are responsible for drop off and pick up of students. All activities occur at the host site, so no transportation is required for field trips.

**General notes:** IF, Inc.’s RoboRAVE program is in Bernalillo. They have enough space to hold a small program on site, but the location is not especially conducive for group work.

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**UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO CHILDREN’S CAMPUS**

The [UNM Children's Campus for Early Care and Education (UNMCC)](https://www.unm.edu/children/) is supported by student fees and is under the umbrella of Student Affairs. This program is also supported by various State and Federal grants. It is a nationally recognized, five star licensed child care facility with the state of New Mexico. In addition to its ongoing childcare programs, UNMCC offers summer programs for elementary and middle school aged children.

**Calendar:** UNMCC offers four two-week summer camps for both elementary and middle school aged children. In addition, there is a four-day intersession offering the week of the 4th of July. In the summer of 2016, the two-week sessions began on June 6th, June 20th, July 11th, and July 25th. All summer program participants were also eligible to participate in their end-of-summer camp out August 5th and 6th.

**Format:** Camps run for two-weeks, Monday through Friday, from 8:30am to 4:30pm with before and aftercare available for an additional fee. The camps are split between the elementary school grades and the middle school grades, but with similar activities and schedules.

**Program composition:** Each two-week program has a theme, and content and activities are built around that topic area. Themes for 2016 included adventure, sports, nature, and water with activities ranging from field trips to nearby national monuments to kayaking on the Rio Grande. The camps are very hands-on and activity-based with a majority of camp time spent away from the facility on field trips. There are some blocks of time spent at the facility for downtime and/or activities that can be conducted in house (canvas painting, or
Themes and activities are chosen by the camp coordinator, and arranged with remote site providers, as needed. Each of the middle school camps includes an overnight trip to someplace like Ghost Ranch, Stone Age Climbing Gym, or outdoor camps in the state.

**Cost:** The cost per student for the two-week session is $525 for elementary school age, and $550 for middle schoolers. The four-day intersession is $250 for both age groups. Breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack are included in the cost, and all participants receive a program T-shirt, hat, and water bottle. They do not offer scholarships or need-based reduced tuition, but they are approved to accept childcare assistance funding from the New Mexico Children, Youth, and Families Department.

**Participants:** Camps are capped at 26 participants for elementary, and at 12 for middle school. The camps for elementary school age always fill, every camp, every summer. The middle school program is new, and does not fill as consistently. As word spreads, they anticipate that those camps will fill up consistently, too. Campers come from all parts of the metro area with no known concentrations by zip code or city quadrant.

For elementary age, they have four adult facilitators per session. For middle school, there are two, although a third is generally added as needed for activities that may require additional supervision. All facilitators are full time staff of UNMCC and always include a lead teacher, and a teaching assistant (TA), along with additional childcare workers, as needed.

**Registration/Advertising Timing:** Registration is opened for the children of UNMCC staff in early April. Two weeks later it is made available to alumni of either past camps or of the UNMCC ongoing childcare program. Two additional weeks later it is opened to the general public. The camps fill very fast. They advertise via NM-Kids magazine, KOAT.com, and using fliers delivered to all middle schools. Since they fill their elementary programs effortlessly, their advertising emphasis is on the middle school group.

**Special Needs:** They have been able to accommodate all special needs to date. The coordinator works directly with the family to understand the need and to work out a plan for supporting the additional attention required.

**Transportation:** Drop off and pickup during the program are the parent’s responsibility. UNMCC has access to school buses for use on field trips.

**General notes:** They have not typically collected parent feedback following their camps, but may institute a feedback mechanism, especially for middle school where they are still in the process of establishing their program.

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**UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO CONTINUING EDUCATION**

*University of New Mexico Continuing Education* (UNM CE) plays a major role in community service and outreach for UNM, with a focus on economic and workforce development. They act as a center of lifelong learning by providing educational training and personal enrichment opportunities for students, businesses, and community partners in New Mexico.

The Youth Program at UNM CE offers interesting and challenging classes and camps throughout the year that encourage creativity, spark curiosity, and develop fitness for children and youth with the guidance of instructors who are experts in their field.
**Calendar:** In 2016, UNM CE offered 153 classes and camps for children between June 6th and August 5th at various locations in the Albuquerque Metro area. In addition to the extensive summer program, they offer youth classes and seminars throughout the fall and spring semesters, as well as spring break camps.

**Format:** A wide variety of formats are utilized, depending on subject matter, target age group, content provider, and location. Most are one full week in duration, either morning, afternoon, or full day. Others are multiple days for smaller blocks of time, or may be offered for one to three days of a given week. A few are half days for multiple weeks. Before and aftercare are available for some locations and providers, but not all.

**Program composition:** Classes, camps, and seminars are available for children ages five to seventeen. The number of participants and facilitators varies widely with provider, age group, location, topic and material requirements. UNM CE does have a number of in-house instructors who provide facilitation for many of their offerings. In addition, they work with external organizations to deliver options within a specific area of provider expertise like engineering, dance, martial arts, or yoga.

UNM CE strives to maintain balance in their curricula and avoid a catalog too heavy in any one subject area and/or lacking in another. Feedback from surveys of youth participants and their parents help them to identify new areas of interest that are currently unavailable. If a gap is identified that is deemed to have sufficient interest and/or need, and which is in keeping with maintaining a balanced set of offerings, they make an effort to add it to their catalog. In those cases, they look in house first to see if they have the internal expertise to develop a program in-house. If not, they seek outside providers to work with in filling that gap.

**Cost:** Program tuition varies greatly depending on format, age group, topic, and provider. They range from $59 to $350 with the majority in the $125 to $195 range. They do offer scholarships on a limited basis using funds from private donations.

**Participants:** Attendance varies with program topic, age group, and location. They do have a minimum sign up requirement to avoid cancellation of a session. Programs are offered at locations in eight different zip codes in the Albuquerque Metro area, and participants come from a wide range of portions of the city and surrounding area.

**Registration/Advertising Timing:** For 2016, registration for summer programs opened on March 1st. Registration can be completed on-line, over the phone, via fax or email, through US Mail, or in person. UNM CE sends out copies of its catalog to past participants and by request. The catalog is also available on-line at their web site.

**Special Needs:** Requests for accommodations should be communicated to the Program Supervisor at least 2 weeks prior to the class start date. Significant effort is made to accommodate children and youth with special needs. They maintain ADA compliance, and have T-COIL available in some of the classrooms in the primary facility to aid the hearing impaired. Arrangements for a sign language interpreter can be made through the UNM Accessibility Resource Center’s Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services. Parents or guardians are welcome to attend the class along with their student if individualized assistance is required.

**Transportation:** Drop off and pick up at program locations is the responsibility of the parents.

**General notes:** The current director of the youth program has been in place since August of 2014, and the program has expanded significantly under her tenure, in large part due to active recruitment of outside collaborations with area providers.
Their experience in making arrangements with outside host sites is that it varies greatly with the personalities of those involved. They have worked with non-profits, businesses, schools, churches, community centers and other types of facilities. To be successful, there must be alignment with the mission of that organization, and they must be willing and able to overcome the inertia of the status quo to get an on-site program in place.